



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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RESTORATION PROJECTS APPROVED BY CALFED

SACRAMENTO – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and California Resources Agency Secretary Mary Nichols today approved funding for 31 restoration projects in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed. Funding for the projects totals over \$16 million, provided by the Federal Bay-Delta Act and California Proposition 204 .

“This moves us one more important step closer to our long-range restoration goals for the CALFED Program,” said Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. “These projects show CALFED continues to be a strong, viable and balanced program in seeking a solution to the Bay-Delta system problems.”

In addition to improving habitat for fish and wildlife, the projects include local watershed management activities, fish screens in the Sacramento Valley, water quality monitoring and studies, studies of invasive species entering the system through ship ballast water. Besides environmental benefits to the Bay-Delta ecosystem, these projects will make improvements to water quality and water supply reliability, and provide important information for future decision-making in the CALFED Program.

"The CALFED projects and studies approved today will have enduring impacts well into the future," said Secretary Nichols. "Cleaning up the environment and preserving and restoring watersheds help water supply for cities and farms, and reduce the water quality problems that are plaguing us in the Delta today."

As CALFED moves closer to issuing a final plan for the Bay-Delta system, priority was given to activities that meet the long-term ecosystem restoration goals of the program and provide critical scientific information to the Program. Many of the approved projects are subsequent phases of projects funded by CALFED in past years.

Projects were selected from a pool of 226 proposals submitted to CALFED in April. The proposals were reviewed and evaluated by an scientific review panel. The panel’s recommendations were then reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable, Bay-Delta Advisory Council and CALFED Policy Group.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Additional funds for environmental water acquisitions, South Delta planning, and science and monitoring were also approved.

Ongoing restoration work, begun under the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord, provides important environmental benefits in the Bay-Delta estuary while a comprehensive solution to problem in the Bay-Delta system is developed. The projects also provide valuable benefits for levee system integrity, water quality and water supply reliability.

To date, over \$243 million in state, federal and stakeholder funds and cost-sharing agreements have been awarded for 272 projects. The next request for proposals is expected to be announced in March 2000.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and California's environmental, urban and agricultural communities. It was initiated in 1995 to develop a long-term to restore environmental health and resolve water management problems in the Bay-Delta system, an intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the watershed that feeds them.

The Bay-Delta is a critically important part of California's natural environment and economy, supplying drinking water for two-thirds of the people in California and irrigation water for more than 7 million acres of productive farmland. It also supports 750 fish and wildlife species.

In June 1999, the CALFED Program released for public review a draft programmatic environmental impact statement/environmental impact report that outlined the Program's proposed plan. The CALFED plan – or “draft preferred program alternative” – is a 30-year program to restore ecological health in the Bay-Delta, provide a reliable water supply for all uses, and improve water quality in California. A final plan is expected to be released in spring 2000.

Additional information about the CALFED Program and ecosystem restoration projects can be found on the CALFED web site, <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

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ATTACHED is a list of projects selected for funding.